(c) As indicated by C \GC and OIL, the national value of gas flared in the North Eastern Region during 2002-03 was about Rs. 7.07 crore and Rs. 14.68 crore respectively.

As regards ONGC, they have so far made an investment of 86.39 crore since 1998 towards various schemes for reducing gas flaring. The value of investment made by OIL in this regard in the last 10 years has been over Rs. 350 crore.

Some of the important steps taken by the ONGC and OIL are the following:

* Installation of booster compressors.

* Construction of gas evacuation facilities.

* Gas storage facilities to conserve surplus gas.

* Identifying new consumers.

With the implementation of these schemes ONGC has already brought down the gas flaring in the region to 10% of the total production. As regards OIL, flaring has been reduced to about 6%.

Present position of Indo-Iran gas pipeline

†980. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the proposed Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline;

(b) whether Pakistan has shown its willingness to accord necessary security guarantee to this project; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

bilateral cooperation, Indo-Iran Joint Committee had constituted a Joint Technical Sub-Committee to assist it to explore all the options to import natural gas from Iran. The Joint Committee had decided to undertake an offshore feasibility study for laying of pipeline from Iran to India outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies for the pipeline project by the respective Governments. Accordingly GAIL and NIGEC have jointly commissioned an offshore pipeline feasibility study for the pipeline from Iran to India.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the present state of bilateral relationship with Pakistan, Government is not considering any proposal for on-land natural gas pipeline transiting through Pakistan.

Oil refineries

981. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil refineries in India in public sector, State-wise and the amount invested; and

(b) whether Government have made any action plan to start more oil refineries in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As on 31.3.2003, there were 17 Public Sector Refineries and 1 Private Sector Refinery in India. The state-wise details are given in the enslosed statement. (*See* below)

The total investment made by the Government/Public Sector Undertakings in the above 17 Public Sector Refineries is approximately Rs. 34,715.31 crore.

(b) At present three refineries, one each in Bina (Madhya Pradesh) Paradip (Orissa) and Bhatinda (Punjab), are under various stages of implementation.